

TOXOPLASMOSIS

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A systemic disease caused by the coccidian protozoan *Toxoplasma gondii*. The disease is characterized by fever, lymphadenopathy, and lymphocytosis. Immunocompromised individuals may develop cerebral signs, pneumonia, and myocarditis. Primary infection during pregnancy may result in infant mortality or congenital abnormalities.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis and laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Demonstration of *Toxoplasma gondii* in body tissues or fluids, **OR**
 - Significant change in antibody titer on paired specimen serology, **OR**
 - In infants, demonstration of specific IgM or increasing titer in sequential sera are conclusive evidence of congenital infection.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES ROUTINE REPORTING:**
REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT within five (5) business days of the identification of a case or suspected case.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
- C. **PREVENTION MEASURES:**
- Educate pregnant women and immunocompromised persons about the risk of transmission of toxoplasmosis from raw meats and contact with cats:
 - a) Cook meats to 150° F (66° C). Freezing meat reduces infectivity but does not eliminate it.
 - b) Avoid cleaning litter pans or contact with cats of unknown feeding history. Wear gloves when gardening and thoroughly wash hands after work and before eating.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH: 502-564-3261.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. TOXOPLASMOSIS. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 500-503.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. *Toxoplasma gondii* Infections. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 583-586.
3. CDC. Preventing Congenital Toxoplasmosis. MMWR 2000; Vol. 49 (No. RR-2): 57-67.